(b) Yes, Sir. A proposal from Government of Gujarat was received in 2006-07 for upgrading of the existing 40 police stations. But, the proposal could not be considered as the ongoing Coastal Security Scheme, which is under implementation since 2005-06 is approved for five years and any such proposal could be considered only at the time of review after that. The State Government was informed accordingly.

(c) The matter is being examined afresh in the Ministry. The Government of Gujarat has been advised to carry out vulnerability/gap analysis with the help of Coast Guard and other security agencies and send a complete proposal to Government of India including requirements of additional Coastal Polices Stations, check posts, outposts, vehicles, boats etc.

Convening meeting of Police Chief of some States

1021. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently convened a meeting of the Police Chiefs of some States to discuss measures to strengthen the intelligence gathering machinery in their States;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government has also asked States not to demand Central Forces every time and strengthen special branches of all State police departments; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance Government has decided to render to State Governments to strengthen police forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A one day conference of Chief Secretaries/Home Secretaries and Directors General Police of all States was held on 08.08.2008 to review the prevailing security scenario in various parts of the country and to discuss the terrorist incidents, naxalite violence, etc. The discussions highlighted the need for strengthening of police infrastructure, improving response capabilities necessary to address the emerging threats, enhanced surveillance of crowded areas such as markets, malls, etc., in urban areas, stricter enforcement of existing regulations on explosives, countering the menaces of Fake Indian Currency Notes, regulations of cyber cafes and retailers of SIM cards etc., with the involvement of all stakeholders, harnessing of technology towards this end, involving the community in countering threats posed by terrorist elements and generating awareness. There was a broad consensus to focus on capacity building through training, skill upgradation, incentivisation of special Branches of the States, and the need for effective investigation and efficient prosecution of cases having inter-state and international linkages was emphasized.

(c) In the context of request made by the State Governments, from time to time, for deployment of Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) to assist the state Police in the

maintenance of law and order/public order, the State Governments have recently been requested to ensure that requisition of CPMFs is resorted to only after exhausting all resources at the disposal of the State Government, and when they are made available, they should be released immediately after the particular event/purpose for which their requisition is over. States have been requested to take steps in respect of the strengthening of the State Police, including filling up of the vacancies, raising India Reserve Battalions, etc.

(d) The Central Government has been giving assistance to the State Governments for modernization and upgradation of the State police forces under the Scheme for Modernisation of State police Forces (MPF), including the State intelligence machinery. The matter of giving more focused attention for strengthening of the intelligence machinery in the States, has been under consideration of the Central Government, and it has been decided to launch a separate sub-scheme for this purpose under the MPF Scheme for this purpose under the MPF Scheme. A Committee, comprising representatives of some State Governments, to be coordinated by the Intelligence Bureau, has been set up for work out the detailed parameters for the proposed Scheme. The same are under finalization. Further, the Government of India has approved the raising of 2 Coys each of 44 IRBn, sanctioned during 2007-08 and thereafter, as a Special Task Force to counter various threats like naxalism and other form of militancy. To raise these Commando Coys, the Government of India would be providing additional assistance of Rs.3 crore per Coy.

Amount paid to States for natural calamities

†1022. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid to States as assistance, so far, due to natural calamities;

(b) calamity-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether assistance given by the Centre is used properly by the State Governments; and

(d) if not, the way in which Centre directs the States for the proper usage of the assistance or the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) As per the Scheme of financing the relief expenditure, the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural disasters. Distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support, where necessary. Such support is within the framework of Award of the Finance Commissions. A calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State. The Government of India contributes

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.